

683738

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Williamson, et al

Examiner: P. Prebilic

Serial No: 09/306,448

Art Unit: 3738

Filed: 05/06/99



Title: MEANS AND METHOD OF REPAIRING A
HEART VALVE IN A MINIMALLY
INVASIVE MANNER

#7B
ARIVERS
5/3/01
NE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
MAY - 2 2001
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action dated 02/27/01, please
amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

Do Not
Enter
POT
5-7-01

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 1 to designate such figure as --Prior
Art--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

4 (Amended). The [tool] combination defined in Claim 3
wherein each fastener of the tool includes a tissue-penetrating
portion and anchoring means on said tissue-penetrating portion
for anchoring said tissue-penetrating portion after the tissue-
penetrating portion has passed through the patient's tissue.

16 (Twice Amended). In combination:

- A) a multipart prosthesis which includes
- (1) a flexible sewing cuff,
 - (2) a prosthesis valve separate and spaceable from said
flexible sewing cuff, and
 - (3) anchor elements for securely attaching said